



the mountain states collector

DEVOTED TO
ANTIQUES,
COLLECTIBLES,
FURNITURE,
ART, DESIGN
AND HISTORY.

52ND ANNIVERSARY — ESTABLISHED IN 1972

Volume 52, Number 4

APRIL 2024



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Friday April 5, 2024
Food Trucks

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Chief Red Fox Featured at the Denver Postcard & Paper Show in May

By Carol Mobley

Chief Red Fox, Tokála Luta, was born June 11, 1870 on the Pine Ridge Reservation, Dakota Territory. He was the nephew of Crazy Horse and was considered an authority on the Little Bighorn massacre, because he witnessed it! He participated in Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show and was in over 107 silent films.

Red Fox graduated from Carlisle Indian School in 1889 and attended two years of college at the University of Wisconsin. He was in the Navy and served during the Boxer Rebellion in China. He was discharged from the Navy in 1902.

Just before his 100th birthday, he was interviewed by Woody Palmer of the Colorado Springs Gazette Telegraph. In the interview, Chief Red Fox talked about many of the things he witnessed over his life, included first hand experiences of Little Bighorn. The article appears in the Sunday April 5, 1970 issue of the Gazette Telegraph. Here are some of the interesting things said in the interview between Woody Palmer and Chief Red Fox.

"Custer was never a hero to the Sioux. It was for this reason that he and his entire force was annihilated. He was called Drunken Face and Women Killer." A series of events, among them broken treaties, and banned hunting forced the Sioux from their native lands. It was while they were camped at Little Bighorn that they surrounded Custer and his troops. "The men who died there were led to die by a jealous and selfish officer. My people know of Custer these things which are not said in history..."

Up until the interview in 1970, Chief Red Fox knew almost every Indian Commissioner. When asked about Louis Bruce, the acting Commissioner from 1969-1973, he said, "He is a dairy farmer. He doesn't know about Indians. I don't know how he got that job. He only knows about udders..."

Chief Red Fox was also an author. McGraw-Hill published "The Memoirs of Chief Red Fox" in 1971. Sections of the book had been plagiarized and it didn't seem to bother his popularity as he appeared in many interviews following the release of his book.

For many years he



worked in public relations with Wilson Certified Foods, Inc and the Safeway Stores. The one image is his promotional photograph that was taken next to a food display.

He died in Corpus Christi, Texas on March 1, 1976 at the age of 105. One of his quotes is a fitting finish, "Do the best with what you have today – don't worry about tomorrow for it may never get here and forget about yesterday, it is gone forever."

Along with the newspaper article, was a postcard sized promotional card that he signed on the back and a color promotional photograph next to a food display. Treasures of history will be available for you to see and purchase at the Denver Postcard & Paper Show on May 24-25 at the Arapahoe County Fairgrounds in Aurora, Colorado. This year's event will be held in conjunction with the Rocky Mountain Stamp Show. Both events are free to the public. Dealer spaces still available. For more information, contact Carol Mobley at 720-308-1516 or camobley@ephemeranet.com.



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(n.) A self guided shopping road trip.
(v.) To explore the best local vintage, antique and boutique shops.

APRIL 12-14

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Saturday, April 13

12 p.m. to 3 p.m.

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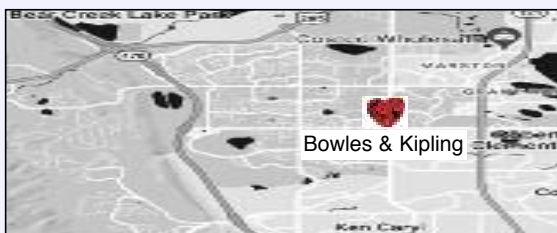
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Show Calendar: April — September, 2024

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APR. 5: **MEO WELCOMES FOOD TRUCKS**, Visit the shop on Friday, Food Trucks arrive at 5 p.m. Check out our unique vintage mid mod furniture and decor, too. The shop is located at 445 S. Saulsbury St. Units E and F in Lakewood. More info, go to Instagram @olivasmorris and on Facebook @morrisolivas.

APR. 12-14: **2024 SPRING EDITION COLORADO SHOP HOP**, a self-guided shopping road trip to explore the best local vintage, antique and boutique shops. In-store exclusives, sales and refreshments, a weekend of shopping small, shophop passport = prizes! More info, go to www.coshophop.com, or coshophop@gmail.com.

APR. 13: **LITTLETON CAR SHOW** 3 to 6 p.m., weather permitting, at Old Crows Antique Mall, 10081 West Bowles Avenue, Littleton. Featuring vintage and collectible vehicles. An event that is fun for the whole family. 303-973-8648.

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MAY 9-11: **DENVER COIN EXPO**, National Western Complex, 4655 Humboldt Street, Denver. The largest and oldest coin show in the Rocky Mountains, Thurs. and Fri. 10-6 p.m., Sat., 10-4 p.m. More information, call Neal at 720-773-1175 or go to denvercoinexpo@gmail.com or www.rockymtnexpos.com.

MAY 17 & 18: **JUNKTIQUE ANTIQUE SHOW AND FLEA MARKET**, Florence, Colorado more info, call 719- 784-3544 or go to finditinflorence.com

MAY 18 & 19: **52nd ANNUAL STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL** sponsored by The St. Vrain Historical Society to be held at the Boulder County Fairgrounds, Exhibit Building, 9595 Nelson Rd., Longmont, Colorado, \$10 admission. Children under 12 free. More info, 303-776-1870. or go to www.stvrainhistory.org

MAY 24 & 25: **DENVER POSTCARD & PAPER SHOW** in conjunction with the **Rocky Mountain Stamp Show**, May 24-25, 2024, Arapahoe County Fairgrounds 15680 E Quincy Ave, Aurora, CO 80016—more info at www.denverpostcardshow.com or email Carol at camobley@ephemeranet.com

JUNE 15: **VINTAGE MARKETPLACE OUTDOOR MARKET**, 6520 S. College Ave., Forth Collins, CO more info: www.vintagemarketplacefc.com Upcoming Outdoor Markets on July 20th, Aug. 17, Sept. 21, Oct. 19 and Nov. 16.

JULY 13-14: **ROCKY MOUNTAIN ANTIQUE FESTIVAL**, Loveland, Colorado, presented by Heritage Event Company. at the Ranch Events Complex Larimer County Fairgrounds. FREE PARKING, Adults \$6., Children 11 and Under: FREE. More info, go to www.heritageeventcompany.com or contact Gail Kinney (918) 619-2875.

JULY 19 & 20: **DENVER POSTCARD & PAPER SHOW**, Holiday Inn Lakewood, 7390 W Hampden Ave, Lakewood, CO 80227 —more info at www.denverpostcardshow.com or email Carol at camobley@ephemeranet.com

AUGUST 17 & 18: **ROCKY MOUNTAIN BOOK & PAPER FAIR**, 2024, Douglas County Fairgrounds, 500 Fairgrounds Rd, Castle Rock, CO 80104 – more info at RMABA.org or email bookfair2024@rmaba.org

SEPT. 13 & 14: **CHERRELYN STAMP SHOW**, Jefferson County Fairgrounds, 15200 W 6th Ave, Golden, CO 80401 – for more information email Carol at camobley@ephemera.net



The St. Vrain Historical Society Presents
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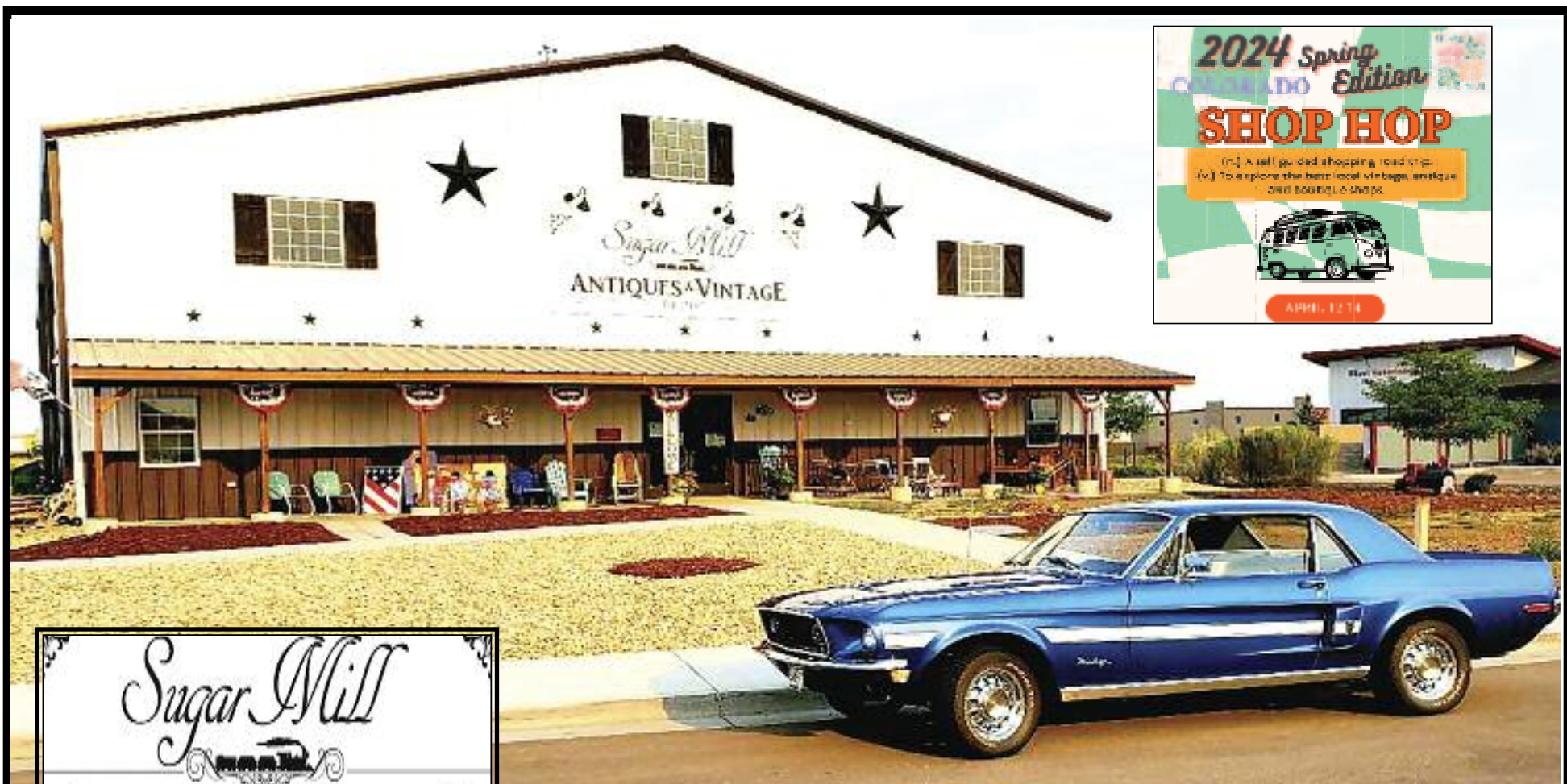
2024 Spring Edition
COLORADO
SHOP HOP
(n.) A self guided shopping road trip.
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See calendar listing above and ad on page 6.
APRIL 12-14



Spring fever is here and our 285 dealers are stocking their shelves with new merchandise daily. Many dealers are having sales, so look for the red and white sale signs as you shop. Our Miles of Aisles are blooming full of treasures and collectibles and have never looked better. Refresh your home with mid-mod furniture or a just-right antique. Spruce up your patio or sunroom with trellises, planters or wrought iron. Feel the spring vibe by adding unique yard art to your garden. You'll have a spring in your step as you peruse our huge showroom. See you soon!



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This Is Why Arbor Day Is a Thing

Nebraska was a largely treeless prairie region when, on April 10, 1872, it became the first state to celebrate Arbor Day by planting trees.

The celebration came a few months after J. Sterling Morton, a vice-president of the Nebraska State Board of Agriculture, first proposed to the Board that the day be set aside for tree planting and that they should offer a “special premium” or prize for the county and for the person that planted the most trees on that day. The Board approved his resolution. Reportedly, there were more than a million trees planted in the state that first year.

Julius Sterling Morton had moved to the Nebraska Territory in the mid 1850s with his wife, Caroline Joy Morton, and while he worked as a newspaper editor and politician, they both soon became known for their love of trees. An 1885 Nebraska State Historical Society biography describes the greenery at their home, known as Arbor Lodge, as including, “Flowers and flowering shrubs, and vines and evergreens in great abundance... trees of ornament and fruit, hedges and vines and flowers.”

Morton’s reasons for promoting the idea of Nebraskans planting trees were many. He always kept the underlying economic importance of trees in mind, and Shaul E. Cohen, in his book *Planting Nature*, quotes Morton’s reasoning for Arbor day as both a sentimental occasion for men to enrich themselves, and also an equalizing one since even the poorest landholder in the young state could plant a tree. (“The rain and sunshine and seasons will be his partners,” Morton said, “just as genially and gently as they will be those of any millionaire.”) And, as Nebraska’s Governor explained in his Arbor Day proclamation of 1883 — though the details of how that worked weren’t yet understood — it was held that planting trees could benefit the climate.

But Morton also believed that the beauty of trees was a reason unto itself: “To preserve beauty on the

earth, beauty herself beseeches us to plant trees, and renew dead landscapes with the shadow and light of plant life flitting through the pendant limbs, the willowy boughs and the waving foliage of sturdy, yet graceful woods. Our ancestors planted orchards to fruit for us, and homes to give us shelter.”

Morton wasn’t the only one promoting tree planting at the time, but his idea for Arbor Day was quickly adopted in Nebraska and other states, and publicized through newspapers. Soon schools held planting ceremonies and read relevant passages from poetry and literature to mark the day. Arbor Day became a legal holiday in Nebraska in 1885 (April 22nd, to honor Morton’s birthday), and eventually expanded to the U.S. as a whole and even other countries. It’s perhaps not the most famous holiday on the calendar, but 145 years later people are still celebrating it by planting trees.

In 1893, he was made Secretary of Agriculture by President Grover Cleveland, and a few years later the Government Printing Office published a manual on the history and observance of Arbor Day. The report included addresses on the importance and meaning of the occasion from notables, information on how best to plant trees and selected excerpts of poetry and literature about trees. Its author, Nathaniel Hillyer Egleston, noted that “from being only a humble expedient of one of our Western States a few years ago, [Arbor Day] has become a national holiday and one of our most important institutions.” Egleston wrote that Arbor Day could not only teach students the importance of trees to the functioning of society, but also make them into “tree lovers. A tree sentiment will be created and established which will lead us to recognize and cherish the trees as friends.”

In 1907 President Theodore Roosevelt remarked on the occasion, which by then was an annual occurrence in every state, that “a people without children

Two of a kind:
Earth Day April 22 / Arbor Day April 28



would face a hopeless future; a country without trees is almost as hopeless.”

A century after the holiday was first celebrated, the Arbor Day Foundation was created to continue encouraging people to plant and love trees, and President Nixon proclaimed National Arbor Day. Now the last Friday in April is National Arbor Day, which is when most but not all states celebrate it. Variations are also celebrated with planting all over the world.

Morton, for one, might not be surprised that his idea has endured for so long. In 1887, in an Arbor Day address at the State University at Lincoln, Neb., he noted the why Arbor Day was unusual among holidays: “Each of those reposes upon the past, while Arbor Day proposes for the future. It contemplates, not the good and the beautiful of past generations, but it sketches, outlines, establishes the useful and the beautiful for the ages yet to come.”

Earth Day Started 54 Years Ago



Margaret Mead spoke at the first Earth Day celebration. Mead is known as the first major anthropologist to study cultures from the point of view of female members. Her most famous book is *Coming of Age in Samoa*.

Who Started Earth Day?

Elected to the U.S. Senate in 1962, Senator Gaylord Nelson, a Democrat from Wisconsin, was determined to convince the federal government that the planet was at risk. In 1969, Nelson, considered one of the leaders of the modern environmental movement, developed the idea for Earth Day after being inspired by the anti-Vietnam War “teach-ins” that were taking place on college campuses around the United States. According to Nelson, he envisioned a large-scale, grassroots environmental demonstration “to shake up the political establishment and force this issue onto the national agenda.”

Nelson announced the Earth Day concept at a con-

ference in Seattle in the fall of 1969 and invited the entire nation to get involved. He later recalled:

“The wire services carried the story from coast to coast. The response was electric. It took off like gangbusters. Telegrams, letters and telephone inquiries poured in from all across the country. The American people finally had a forum to express its concern about what was happening to the land, rivers, lakes and air—and they did so with spectacular exuberance.”

Dennis Hayes, a young activist who had served as student president at Stanford University, was selected as Earth Day’s national coordinator, and he worked with an army of student volunteers and several staff members from Nelson’s Senate office to organize the project. According to Nelson, “Earth Day worked because of the spontaneous response at the grassroots level. We had neither the time nor resources to organize 20 million demonstrators and the thousands of schools and local communities that participated. That was the remarkable thing about Earth Day. It organized itself.”

The First Earth Day: April 22, 1970

On the first Earth Day on April 22, 1970, rallies were held in Philadelphia, Chicago, Los Angeles and most other American cities, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. In New York City, Mayor John Lindsay closed off a portion of Fifth Avenue to traffic for several hours and spoke at a rally in Union Square with actors Paul Newman and Ali McGraw. In Washington, D.C., thousands of people listened to speeches and performances by singer Pete Seeger and others, and Congress went into recess so its members could speak to their constituents at Earth Day events.

The first Earth Day was effective at raising awareness about environmental issues and transforming public attitudes. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, “Public opinion polls indicate that a permanent change in national priorities followed Earth Day 1970.

When polled in May 1971, 25 percent of the U.S. public declared protecting the environment to be an important goal, a 2,500 percent increase over 1969.” Earth Day kicked off the “Environmental decade with a bang,” as Senator Nelson later put it. During the 1970s, a number of important pieces of environmental legislation were passed, among them the Clean Air Act, the Water Quality Improvement Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Toxic Substances Control Act and the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act. Another key development was the establishment in December 1970 of the Environmental Protection Agency, which was tasked with protecting human health and safeguarding the natural environment—air, water and land.

What Do You Do For Earth Day?

Since 1970, Earth Day celebrations have grown. In 1990, Earth Day went global, with 200 million people in over 140 nations participating, according to the Earth Day Network (EDN), a nonprofit organization that coordinates Earth Day activities. In 2000, Earth Day focused on clean energy and involved hundreds of millions of people in 184 countries and 5,000 environmental groups, according to EDN. Activities ranged from a traveling, talking drum chain in Gabon, Africa, to a gathering of hundreds of thousands of people at the National Mall in Washington, D.C. Today, the Earth Day Network collaborates with more than 17,000 partners and organizations in 174 countries. According to EDN, more than 1 billion people are involved in Earth Day activities, making it “the largest secular civic event in the world.”

Did you know? A highlight of the United Nations’ Earth Day celebration in New York City is the ringing of the Peace Bell, a gift from Japan, at the exact moment of the vernal equinox.

EarthDay.org hopes that every year Earth Day will be the largest volunteer event in history.

That Grand Old Pocket Watch

By Robert Reed

While the grand old pocket watch never got its start in the United States, it had certainly become a great American tradition by the end of the 19th century. It adorned the outfit of every stylish lady and sat in the pocket of every dapper gentleman.

There was a gleaming and engraved pocket watch for every taste, and both figuratively and literally there was one for every pocket book. The wealthy could plunk down more than \$100 for a solid gold timepiece, or the thrifty could mail-order one for just one dollar.

The pocket watch, like the clock before it, got its commercial start in Europe. Initially such portable tellers of time were carried in egg-shaped and later round cases, both were highly decorative and often crusted with jewels. Delicate movements within the confines of the cases were crafted in Germany, France, and Switzerland and sold to the well-to-do during the middle of the 17th century.

As 'time' evolved the watch generally became flatter and less and less elaborate. Although Swiss mechanisms of refined automation were very much part of the market in the early 1800s, there was somewhat of a trend toward the less intricate. While the Swiss still offered finely enameled watches for export, other countries including England moved toward more standard models.

For those without the embellishment of enamel upon Swiss watches there was at first simply the opened faced watch. Such watches worked well but were subject to damage if the relatively thin glass face was broken. As an alternative makers developed a much more protective case involving a hinged metal covering which fit conveniently over the glass face of the watch. Its ruggedness was identified with the vigorous outdoor hunter and thus the name, hunting case. Given more limited production was the oddly called half-hunter case which involved a small glass opening in the metal lid for 'peeping' at the watch face without actually opening the lid.

Historically speaking, during the first half of the 19th century American-made watches made little impression on the rest of the world or even U.S. citizens for that matter. After many struggles and even an embargo on English made watches, American watch production at last began to be effective in the 1850s. An early leader was the Elgin National Watch Company in Elgin, Illinois. Out of more than 60 U.S. firms, the Elgin Company would ultimately become the largest manufacture of jeweled watches in America.

Time was finally on the side of American mass production. U.S. watches could not only be mass produced as the 19th century swept to a finish, the idea of interchangeable parts became industrial reality.

For all of their worldwide dominance, it is fair to say that the quality of American pocket watches



varied greatly. The finest and most precise among them was the railroad watch which sought to achieve the then high standard of railroad time-keeping itself. Then and today they were considered about the best American watch ever made. However it took more than the image of a train engine to be an actual railroad watch.

"Many early watch manufacturers decorated their watch dials (and cases) with locomotives and other railroad scenes," notes Dean Judy author of the book, *100 Years of Vintage Watches*. "This, however, does not denote them to be true railroad grade or railroad-approved timepieces. Railroad standards that were implemented had nothing to do with the decoration on the case or the dial on the watch."

At the other end of the pocket watch scale was the dollar watch. History was made in 1896 when Robert and Charles Ingersoll contracted with the Waterbury Watch Company. As a result the Ingersolls sold the watches via mail order for one dollar each. They followed their initial success with extensive marketing and advertising of the "reliable one dollar Ingersoll watch."

There were other dollar watches available, of course, and their production became an industrial milestone.

One magazine advertisement in 1898 offered the dollar watch for the pocket or for something else. "Your choice of either pocket watch or the new bicycle watch and attachment," said the notice. "The watch can be attached to (the) handle bar of any wheel at a moment's notice."

Writing decades later in 1969 author Louis Hertz observed that the American dollar watch "now has completely vanished from the marks of the trade." However, Hertz concluded in the book *Antique Collecting For Men* that such watches as "examples of industrial progression deserve retention and commemoration."

By the late 1890s major department stores and mail order catalogs offered a vast assortment of pocket watches for both men and women. Leading brands included Elgin, Hampden, and Waltham but standard generic workings were also available. The men's watches came with very decorative cases. Embossed illustrations included horses, landscapes, water falls,

deer, village scenes, buildings, birds, trains, sailboats, flowers and even horse and wagons.

Women's watches were brightly decorated with fine designs and sometimes flower arrangements. However often worn around the neck, they were much less likely to have the extensive illustrations of men's pocket watches. A mail-order leader in the 1890s was the Lady Grange which came in a solid gold case and included a "Victoria" chain. It came with a silver trimmed oak case which could be locked with an accompanying key.

Such watches for women "changed with the styles" noted Anita Cole in the book *Antiques*. Some were attached "to a yard-long gold chain with a slide that allowed the watch to be tucked into the belt of the shirtwaist." By the early 1900s other such watches "hung from its own pin on many a girlish blouse."

In 1908 the Sears and Roebuck catalog was still pushing American-made pocket watches at American-made prices.

"Go into the very finest jewelry store in Chicago, New York, or any other large American city, and you will scarcely see an American made movement offered for sale. The movements they offer are all made in Geneva, Switzerland, but in such stores they get fancy prices."

Nevertheless Sears still offered a full array of American pocket watches at the time including many "new model" solid silver examples.

Ironically some of the finest women's watches, including dazzling Art Deco examples, were produced during the first quarter of the 20th century at a time when women were opting for another form of timepiece. Fashionable women had discovered the wrist watch prior to the 1920s although it was considered too feminine for men's styles. After World War I servicemen found the wrist watch practical, it became popular enough to practically replace the pocket watch.

Just when the American pocket watch became fully collectible is difficult to say. However, in 1973 one national publication observed, "for many years collectors had not bothered much about American watches, but now they are considered important examples of pioneer methods of mass production."



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Gathering Your Family's Memories Through Oral History

If Grandma or Great Aunt Maude are constantly reminiscing about the good old days, why not preserve their stories for your children? Every family should have an oral history tape library right next to the family picture album. Starting such a collection is easy to do with an inexpensive tape recorder. (Yes, tape recorders are having a rebirth but for more modern techniques, we have included them in this article.)

First, sit down and write out a one-page summary of what you want to find out from Grandma. There are two basic ways to approach the oral history interview: chronological and topical. Try the chronological one first because it is the easiest. Start out with such questions as: "Where were you born?" "Who were your parents?" and "Where did you go to school?" As you go through your grandmother's life, you may hit upon the interesting fact that she played a part in some major event in history. If not, you may have to do some research before going on.



Go to your library and read up on American and local history to find out what happened during your grandparents' lifetimes. Then find out what they remember about these events.

For the topical approach, prepare a list of questions about a certain subject. Or you can ask how she, as a young housewife, got and pre-

pared the family's food. Did she work outside the family home? What did she do?

If you are interviewing your grandfather, you can ask him about his military service. Did he take part in the labor movement? If he was a farmer, what methods did he use to plant and harvest his crops?

Ask questions that need more than "yes" or "no" answers. Try to get the reminiscences flowing. One way to give memories a nudge is to pass around old photographs and ask questions about them.

Try to go with the flow. Do not brow-beat your relatives by asking such leading questions as "You do remember when the woolen mill burnt down, don't you?"

In the past, having the proper equipment is important. Cassette tape recorders are easier to use than reel-to-reel. A built-in microphone is easier to set up and will be less distracting for anyone who suffers from mike fright. A digital counter will be helpful when you want to index or transcribe the tapes. A pause button also will be helpful when you index and transcribe.

Today, of course, just using your cell phone to record your interviews is so easy. Then you can have your computer transcribe the interview so you can work from your computer before printing the final version. Make sure to keep a notebook handy to write down the correct spelling of names and places.

Modern Day Recording/Transcription

Special thanks to Krysti Jomei of Birdy Magazine for helping us update our information on how to preserve your family history. Below you will find the modern techniques.

Recording:

Apple devices (on iPhones/Macs): Voice Memo app comes with Apple products. But there's several other recording apps out there you can purchase.

Android devices: I'm not sure about this one but I think Android devices come with Voice Recorder

app. But again you can purchase tons of other apps for recording.

Zoom / Google Meet / Any other Video Meeting Programs have options to record the audio of the meeting or the actual video of the meeting

Professional reporters / podcasters may use different professional equipment instead of phones for clearer audio. I don't know much about these devices but you could do a quick Google search to find out.

Transcription:

AI (artificial intelligence) services/programs online for audio and video transcription. These services transcribe audio or video recordings, online interviews or meetings (like Zoom) or in person face-to-face interviews or meetings.

There's also services online transcribed by real people versus AI. These programs can transcribe audio in different languages.

Basics of how they work: you upload your audio or video file into the program and it takes a few minutes to transcribe it into text which is downloadable into several different file types (PDF, Word, Pages, etc.). They're highly accurate but you do need to go through and edit the transcription as there's a few misspelled words, usually ones that are unusual like the name of a business or product, etc. I've also noticed these programs have a hard time differentiating between speak-

Continued on page 12



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Cat Collectibles - A Purr-fect World

By Robert Reed

A few years ago one of the country's major auction houses devoted an entire auction to cat collectibles in nearly every form.

Some would say the world of cat collectibles indeed was a "purr-fect" one with the choice of everything from Avon bottles to 19th century fine art.

While the feline mammal is typically defined as having a pleasant purr beneath its soft thick fur, collectors might detect a roar.

"Big cats, little cats, white cats, good cats and even better cats," purred an official at the international Skinner Inc. at what was billed as the first all-cat auction held in the United States by a national firm.

Among other things the 'cat's meow' auction included enduring Staffordshire cat figures, considered by many to be the ultimate in cat collectibles.

Cat figures were first created in the Staffordshire region of England during the early 1700s. Early examples were often of salt glaze or a marbled agateware. Most were black and white but some had elements of blue or brown. A majority of the early Staffordshire cats were in the sitting position, and were rarely shown reclining.

Around 1750 a leading Staffordshire potter Thomas Whieldon crafted some notable cat figures in mottled green and brown pottery form. Soon his works were being copied by others of the region and for a time all such figures were called Whieldon pottery.

Cats of porcelain were also produced in England during the 18th century as well. Records show one of the earliest porcelain cats produced was a small three-inch black and white figure. It held a mouse in one paw, and was seated on a base decorated with sprays of flowers. The cat figure was made in 1755 by the Chelsea Porcelain Works.

Meanwhile other porcelain cats were being crafted in places like the Derby Pottery during the 1750s and 1760s in Derby, England. Eventually the firm became Chelsea Derby and continued to produce distinguished porcelain figures. Still other fine grade porcelain cats were created in the Worcester area of England as well as Lowestoft. In the 1770s an exceptional porcelain



Black Cat cigarettes advertising tin, late 19th century. (Skinner Inc.)

tabby cat was produced in Lowestoft. Painted with various colors it stood mere two inches tall on a round green base.

During the early 19th century an occasional cat figure was still being introduced in Staffordshire as well as at the Rockingham factory in Swinton, England. Cats at Rockingham often had a pur-

ple-brown manganese glaze, but were also delivered in other colors as well including both gold and white.

When the Derby porcelain factory closed in 1848, some workers there continued to render small porcelain works according to Katharine McClinton author of *The Complete Book of Small Antiques*. "They made white cats with hollow centers and marked them with crowns," noted McClinton. The author concludes however that in terms of porcelain making, "cats gradually lost their popularity at Staffordshire potteries, and there were none made as companions for dogs in the late 19th century."

In the United States however the cat emerged in the 19th century as a favored symbol for advertising and promoting products.

During the 1880s cats were used on a vast number of products that ranged from cigars to canned foods according to the book *The Label Made Me Buy It* by Ralph and Terry Kovel. The white Persian cat was a particular favorite in the 1890s, but black cats were not far behind.

Likewise cats had starring roles on trade cards of the late 19th century that also served to advertise and promote similar products. They could be fully costumed and wearing glasses for the Spencer Optical Manufacturing Company, or simply adorable 'au naturel' emerging from a package of Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil. Cats were especially popular on trade cards for companies like Woodson Spice and various thread manufacturers.

In France and England lovable cats made the leap from ornamental figurines to dinnerware in the late 19th century in more utilitarian plates and serving dishes. As today such items were often spared from regular usage and instead used for decorative purposes in a fashionable household.

The Skinner auction included one of the most valued cat paintings of the 19th century. The painting, *My Wife's Lovers*, by Carl Kahler was commissioned in 1891 by wealthy philanthropist and art collector Kate Birdsall Johnson of San Francisco, California.

History records that Johnson owned 50 prized Angora and Persian cats that she kept on her Buena Vista estate. The artist worked there for four years, first sketching the cats individually and then in groups. Reportedly the painting was titled *My Wife's Lovers* because the cats were given the name by the woman's husband. At any rate the artist was ultimately paid \$5,000 for the six by eight foot work of art. A few years later the painting was displayed at the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, Illinois.

When the original owner died in 1894 the painting was sold at public auction. It was purchased for \$500. When the 1906 San Francisco earthquake destroyed an entire art saloon the painting barely survived. The painting emerged from obscurity in the 1940s when it toured the country to the delight of cat lovers. Now famous, more than 9,000 copies of the original painting were distributed in connection with the tour. In 1949, *Cat Magazine* declared it to be "the world's greatest painting of cats."

The painting was re-discovered in the late 1980s dirty and all but forgotten in a storage room by cat fancier and collector Kaja Veilleux. Finally, it was offered at the all-cat collectibles auction with a pre-sale estimate



Hand-painted low corner cabinet Henriette Ronner-Knip, early 20th century. (Skinner Inc.)

at more than a half million dollars.

"Throughout our nation's history dogs and cats have had a prominent place in both fine art and folk art," noted an official of the Heritage Plantation of Sandwich some years ago. "They are found in countless paintings, prints, drawings and sculptures, as well as the designs and decorations of a variety of objects from samplers, coverlets and quilts to toys and pottery.

"They capture the attributes and antics, playfulness; and the aura of mystery and independence of cats."

The French paid tribute to cats early in the 20th century with remarkable lithographic posters of various colors. Dutch artist Henriette Ronner-Knip use the image of a cat to decorate furniture including a low corner cabinet. Artist George Martel crafted glazed earthenware figures of beribboned cats with glass eyes during the early 1900s.

In the 1920s there were wrought-iron candelabras from Germany featuring stylized cats, crystal cat bottles from the Cambridge Glass Company in the United States, and a Nice Kitty Good Night decanter set painted in various colors from the New Martinsville Glass Company.

Tiffin Glass Company added to cat collectible treasures in the 1930s with an 11-inch milk glass Sassy Susie Cat. During that same decade the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad developed the image of famed tabby cat Cheshire to advertise and promote all manner of rail transportation and related items.

Back in the middle 1960s author and antiques expert Katharine McClinton cautioned, "cat collecting can be a very expensive hobby. Because the early ones were made as toys or whimsies, they were not considered valuable enough to treasure or keep. Thus there are comparatively few (old cat collectible pieces) available and prices have sky rocketed."

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These properties are some of the original homestead properties in Weld County.



For more photos visit: BruhnsAuction.com

AMERICAN HISTORY

April Anniversaries

April 7

76th Anniversary of the World Health Organization being established by the United Nations (1948)

April 13

Thomas Jefferson's Birthday (1743)

102 Anniversary of the State of Massachusetts opening all public offices to women (1922)

April 15

Congress ratifies peace with Great Britain (1783)

April 17

52nd Anniversary of the first Boston Marathon in which women are officially allowed to compete (1972)

April 18

Patriot's Day

82nd Anniversary of the Doolittle Raid on Japan (1942)

April 19

American Revolution begins (1775)

April 22

Earth Day

April 28

Arbor Day



Recording Your Family History

Continued from page 9

ers so you usually need to edit who is speaking for interviews. Examples of programs are Trint, Notta AI, Otter AI, GoTranscript (you can find more if you just do a Google search for best audio transcription programs).

Back to our original article:

Choose a quiet place for your interviews and try to make your interview subject comfortable. Make sure that he or she knows that you are recording the conversation. If you are planning to interview more than one person, do so one-at-a-time. You might be surprised at the different versions of what Grandma and Grandpa remember about their life together.

When you have finished your interview, identify it by its general topic, both the name of the person interviewed and the name of the person who did the interviewing, the date, the location, and the length of the tape. Then note the main topics covered in time segments by listening to the tape, using a stopwatch and writing down the main topic discussed in each 5 or 10 minute segment.

If you think that your family's history may be of some interest outside your immediate family, you may want to give copies to your local library. Libraries today can take your document electronically which is the best way to save paper and space when sharing your family research. Be sure to get written permission from everyone you interviewed before you do this.

There are some

books that you might want to read before starting your own oral history project.

An Oral History Primer by Gary Shumway and William Hartley (Primer Publications, P.O. Box 11894, Salt Lake City 84147) is a good guidebook for anyone who is just getting started in oral history.

Family Folklore: Interviewing Guide and Questionnaire (Washington D.C.; Smithsonian Institution) can be bought from the Consumer Information Center. Item 16P, Box 100, Pueblo, CO 81002) It contains a helpful list of questions to get your interview off to a good start.

The chapter "Historical Everyman" in David Weitzman's Underfoot: An Everyday Guide to Exploring the American Past (New York: Charles Scribners and Sons) offers simple techniques for recording your family's memories.

COLORADO SPRINGS

McAllister House Museum A Great Place to Visit

Major McAllister made his home in this small house until his death in 1921. For the next 30 plus years the house was rented by the family of Mrs. Fanny Robbins who used the house for a candy and "wedding gift" shop. Upon her death in 1958, the family sold the house.



In 1961 a historic preservation group, the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in Colorado, with the help of the El Pomar Foundation and Shepard's Citations, was able to buy and restore this Colorado Springs (Fountain Colony) house. Why not visit this lovely house and enjoy the historically true restorations?

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Blue Star Museums like Hotel de Paris in Georgetown, Colorado, give special discounts to veterans.



The Mountain States Collector, a tabloid newspaper dedicated to promoting the enjoyment of antiquing and collecting in the Rocky Mountain region, is distributed the first weekend of every month through shops, auctions, flea markets and antique shows, and is mailed to subscribers.

(Opinions of the writers contained herein are not necessarily the opinions of the publishers.)

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Printing Wyoming News

Jigsaw Puzzles Go Back to Ancient Egypt

By Darryl and Roxana Matter

Advertising plays a very important role in our society, influencing and informing consumers about products and services available to them. Companies constantly use many forms of advertising media—newspaper, radio, television, direct mail, billboard, and more—to bring their messages to the public. It is not surprising, therefore, that the jigsaw puzzle, that popular form of home entertainment, has also featured commercial products and advertising.

John Spilsbury, an English printer, is generally credited with having produced the first modern type jigsaw puzzle in the 1760s. (Actually, the ancient Egyptians appear to have enjoyed games similar to jigsaw puzzles, so no one really knows how old the concept is!) Until the early 20th century, though, most jigsaw puzzles were relatively expensive because of the hand labor involved in their construction. At that time, the development of the die-press made it possible for inexpensive jigsaw puzzles to be produced. As explained in the January 18, 1933 issue of Business Week "Last spring the die-cut 'jig-saw type' puzzle appeared. These were stamped out at high speed and could be sold for a fraction of what the original wood products cost."

The "jig-saw insanity," as it was called in the March 11, 1933 issue of the Literary Digest, developed in the early 1930s when the Great De-

pression created an increasing demand for inexpensive home entertainment. Consequently, manufacturers of jigsaw puzzles stepped up production. The March 11, 1933 issue of the Literary Digest reported that about 2,500,000 puzzles were being sold each week at that time and demand for puzzles was increasing. Because of the popularity of such puzzles in the 1930s, clubs were formed to enable jigsaw puzzle enthusiasts to trade once-assembled puzzles among themselves. Furthermore, puzzle rental services were developed to help satisfy the puzzle demand.

Advertising messages and commercial products had occasionally appeared on jigsaw puzzles before the 1930s. During the 1930s, there was an upsurge of interest in such puzzles. As described in the January 18, 1933 issue of Business Week, with the advent of the inexpensive die cut puzzles, "advertisers leaped at the idea of handing out a device over which persons would labor for days to complete a picture that directly or indirectly carried a selling point for branded goods."

Throughout the Great Depression and the war years of the 1940s, jigsaw puzzles continued to be extremely popular forms of home entertainment. Many people even enjoyed making their own. In fact, the February 1943 issue of the Etude Music Magazine carried an article by Gladys M. Stein in which she described how she made jigsaw puzzles and sent them to her students who were ill. "The idea proved successful

The "jig-saw insanity," as it was called in the March 11, 1933 issue of the Literary Digest, developed in the early 1930s when the Great Depression created an increasing demand for inexpensive home entertainment.

from the beginning," Stein noted.

Advertisers continued to take notice of the public's continuing interest in jigsaw puzzles. Throughout the 1930s and 1940s, many jigsaw puzzles featuring commercial products were given away as premiums or distributed by salesmen as an inducement to buy a particular product. Although not as popular today, the use of jigsaw puzzles to advertise continues.

Collectors today find jigsaw puzzles of interest, and puzzles that advertise or feature commercial products have a special appeal to many.

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HISTORY OF FLORENCE

Florence a “great little town” where you’re a stranger only once!

Incorporated in 1887, Florence is a statutory city of 3,800 people located in Fremont County, Colorado. It is situated in Colorado's "banana belt" at the base of the Rocky Mountains, alongside the banks of the Arkansas River. Florence's unique location provides for mild winters, allows for numerous agricultural pursuits, and gives the town a unique River and Mountain parks, which are accessible to the public free of charge.

Named after the daughter of the City's founder Senator James McCandless, Florence is known as the first place oil was discovered west of the Mississippi River and it has a rich history associated with numerous immigrants groups. Florence was home to three railroads and a small depot (used today as a senior center), providing a commercial hub for coal and oil mining activities located in the area.

The remnants of this 1800's commercial boom are preserved in their charming historic downtown now full of antique and retail stores, as well as an emerging culinary district. In addition to managing normal city services, Florence operates a regional water authority with surrounding coal towns and provides refuse collection services. Florence has a strong sense of community and numerous groups like the Senior Community Center, Rotary, Elks, Chamber of Commerce, Eagles, etc. run events throughout the year. Two of their most popular events are the huge Fourth of July Festival, complete with a wet-and-dry parade, and their Pioneer Day celebration in mid-September.

Florence has a fascinating and colorful history that molded the town. People came to Eastern Fremont County for its wide-open spaces for ranching and rich and fertile soil for farming, but the future town of Florence had so much more to offer.

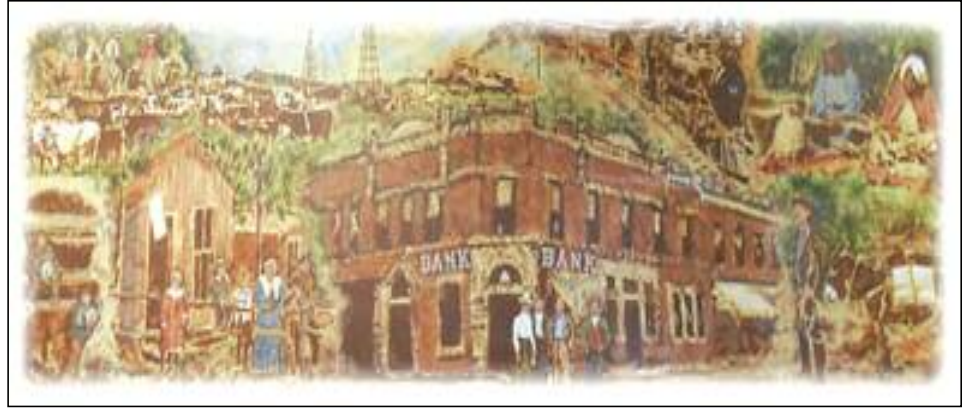
In 1830, a French trader known as "Maurice" established the first trading post on Adobe Creek, seven miles south of the present town in the Florence Mountain Park area.

In 1838, a great battle was fought between the Sioux and Arapaho Indians and the settlers who hid in Maurice's fort. A courier was sent for assistance from the local Utes and a victory was won by the settlers.

The first American settlement on Adobe Creek was established sometime between 1840 and 1846. Those who led the company were Governor Charles Bent, L.P. Lupton, Colonel Ceran St. Vrain, Charles Beaubien, L.V. Maxwell, and John C. Fremont, who is also known as "The Pathfinder." There is a large park and a statue commemorating Mr. Fremont just west of the town on Highway 115 at Pathfinder Park.

The first settlement of what is now Florence proper consisted of a few buildings in 1870. When James McCandless developed his holding and struck oil, he plotted his 160-acre farm into a townsite. He asked others, such as Edwin Lobach, to join him and donate some land to make a real town. The engineer who was hired to survey the plat became well acquainted with the three-year-old daughter of McCandless. He suggested her name, Florence, be the name of the town.

The Florence Oil Fields are the second oldest in the United States and home to the first oil well west of the Mississippi River. Discovered in 1862, this oil well is still pumping today. Florence is located on a bluff-protected bend of the Arkansas River as it breaks out of the Rocky Mountains of Central Colorado on its way to the Mississippi River. The river's unique position and history have produced many rare



natural, physical, and cultural resources enjoyed by Florence.

The oil, coal, fossils, and topography left behind by the Paleozoic seas have provided the natural resources for many cultures, from early Native American tribes, seeking wintering grounds and oil for medicinal and waterproofing, through the Spanish (1562), French (1682), Mexican (1821), and Texans (1836) settlers. In 1861, Colorado became a territory and later achieved statehood in 1876.

The site that later became Florence, on the southern bank of the Arkansas River, occupied natural access routes North and South along the Front Range and East to West from the Mississippi. These routes were used by many like Zebulon Pike (1806), LeDuc (1851), gold seekers (1859), and later William Jackson Palmer with the railroads (1872).


1894 saw the opening of the Florence and Cripple Creek Railroad which opened the flow of Cripple Creek gold into Florence's nine processing mills. With the many refining and reduction mills, the town flourished until the turn of the century. At that point, ore from the gold mines decreased and fires took their toll on many of the local mills.

WWI created a demand for oil and the Continental Oil Company closed sections of Florence to accommodate pipelines and equipment. Florence prospered until an explosion in 1925 leveled East Main Street. Florence further declined during the Great Depression of 1929 and its farming suffered in the Dust Bowl of 1931.

Since then, Florence has become a destination for travelers and antique collectors, an ideal location for small business owners, the Antique Capital of Colorado, and most importantly, the place 3,800 people call home. Citizens of Florence take pride in the rich history of the town and work hard to preserve the original splendor.

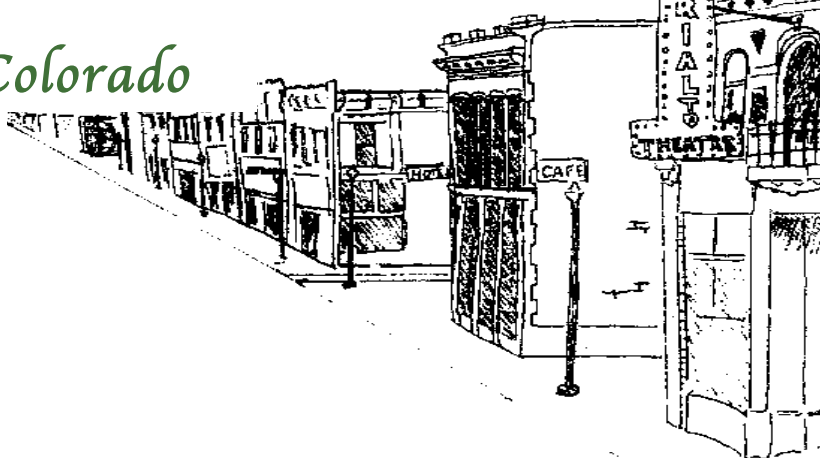
The various antique dealers in original Victorian buildings on Main Street seem to bring back to life the Florence of the 1880s when the town was in its prime. Art galleries are filling in the spaces as artists find room for studios and workshops. The people of Florence can walk to restaurants, shops, and parks while taking in scenes from a town preserved in time!

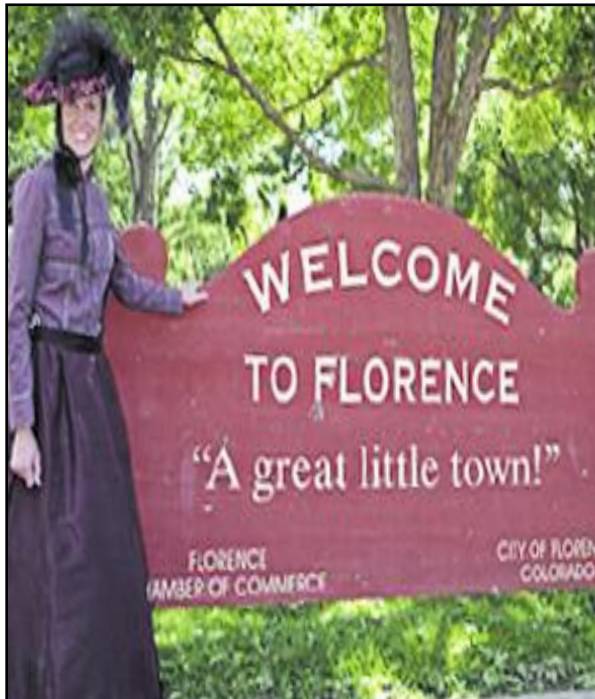
Now a "great Little town" known for its many antique stores and fine eateries, Florence is a great place to visit and shop for all your collectible needs.



*Florence—
Antique Capital of Colorado*

**We take great
pride in being a
“great little town”
where you’re
a stranger only once!**





Rena Pryor



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March's What Is It?



No one guessed our March What Is It. This is a 16" Hand Tuneable Bodhran. The Deep Pro Frame is in Mahogany. It is a handheld, shallow Irish drum with a single goatskin head, played with a stick. 1965-70 Irish Gaelic bodhran, from Middle Irish bodran, from bodar "deafening, deaf." The Bodhrán is known as the core and heartbeat of traditional Irish music. It's a large drum which is covered in stretched animal skin; it provides a pulsating beat and produces a lovely sound. Some people think that years ago the drum had a multipurpose function and was also used as a husk sifter and grain tray.

Today it is one of the most popular of all traditional Irish musical instruments and can boast fans from all over the world. Popular play-

April's What Is It?



Send your answers to the What Is It contest, postmarked by April 20, to *the Mountain States Collector*, P.O. Box 1003, Bailey, CO 80421. At least three winners will be drawn. Winners will receive a year's subscription to *the Mountain States Collector*.

ers of the bodhrán include Rónán Ó Snodaigh, Johnny 'Ringo' McDonagh, Christy Moore, Caroline Corr, Gino Lupari and many, many more.

Other musical instruments used in Irish music include the fiddle (violin), the flute and whistle, Uilleann pipes, harp, accordion and concertina, banjo, mandolin and guitar.

The Genealogy of Teddy Bears

By Neil Dabb

"And Solomon begat Roboam; and Roboam begat Abia; and Abia begat...." (Matt. 1:7)

Across the nation there is a great interest in our ancestors or our roots. This gets into the writing of personal histories, the tracing of parents, grandparents, and so on, back as far as recorded history will allow, and the stories associated with these people.

It occurred to me that with all this emphasis on one's origin, why not involve our teddy bears in their own genealogy? Has anyone considered tracing the roots of his teddy? Not that I've heard. Why not? Because teddys aren't born, they're made, right? Perhaps, but I wonder.

As a general rule most teddy bears outlive the interest, if not the lives, of their owners. In light of this it is entirely possible for one teddy bear to have many different owners.

Just imagine, being able to trace the different owners of your teddy bear, from the factory clear down to when you received him.

Of course, teddy bear genealogy will be far from easy. Unlike humans, a teddy bear doesn't retain the same name all his life. In fact, until President Theodore Roosevelt came along, they weren't even called teddy bears. There is seldom a birth certificate, or bill of sale when a bear is passed on to his new owner, and since the major part of the information about the teddy bear is kept in the fragile memories of humans, time becomes most important.

Another aspect of this new type or genealogy is that once it has been done for your teddy bear, when the day comes for him to be passed on to someone else, they will have a complete history of the bear, as well as a glimpse into the lives and times of the different owners. Think of teddy bear genealogy as a painless way of collecting some of your own

genealogy. And don't forget about all of the heartwarming stories about teddy bears that the teddy bear genealogist will be able to listen to and record.

There are archives the world over where records about people are stored. Why not start a teddy bear archives? Because of all that these furry friends do for humans, it is only proper and natural for humans to provide a place where the records of these fearless bears could be kept and preserved for future generations, of humans and their teddy bears. The time has come for all teddy bear owners to start recording the history and genealogy of their teddys; your teddy bear and his future owners will love you for it.



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